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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.  
Dated: August 24, 2001 Signature: *Elena Maglitta*  
(Elena Maglitta)

Docket No.: HO-P01956US1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 31 2001**

**Technology Center 2100**

In re Patent Application of:  
Michael D. Whitesage

Application No.: 09/764,178

Group Art Unit: 2163

Filed: January 17, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING  
PURCHASING CONTRACTS

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are the following items for filing in connection with the above-referenced Patent Application:

1. First Preliminary Amendment; and
2. Return postcard.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P01956US1. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: August 24, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By *Edward D. Steakley*  
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# 7/PuAuerata  
J. J. Gaynor  
9/10

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Box Non-Fee Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3 and ending on page 1, line 5 as follows:

The present application claims the benefit of the filing date of United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/194,538, filed April 4, 2000, (which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes).

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

A typographical error was noticed after the application was filed. This amendment corrects such error.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."